World Music workshops

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Author and Performer

Stan Cullimore

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The Net Promoter Score

Two weeks ago all new parents whose children commenced at AISM in Term 1 2015, received a one question survey from the Taylor’s Education Group School Division. Thank you to all new parents who completed the survey.

The single question, "How likely is it that you would recommend AISM to a friend or colleague?", is designed to gauge the current satisfaction of the new parents with their new school. The single answer was given by choosing a rating between 0 and 10 whereby parents were grouped as Promoters (scores 9, 10), Passives (scores 7,8) or Detractors (scores 0-6).

The Net Promoter Score (NPS) = %Promoters - %Detractors (%Passives are not used in the calculation)

While the aspirational scores for the NPS varies from industry to industry, we accept that for international schools a good result would be between 20-30, a very good result would be 30-40 and an excellent result would be greater than 40. Of course these results are more reliable when a significant number of parents respond to the survey.

We are delighted that 73% of our new parents responded to the survey and we are equally delighted with our Term 1 NPS Score of 36. While this result is very pleasing, we will not rest on our laurels and we will continue to implement our school improvement plans so that we can achieve higher results in our Term 1 2016 NPS survey. If we can achieve this goal then it will mean we are better meeting the needs of our students.

“73% of new parents responded to the Net Promoter Score Survey”

“Our Term 1 Score is 36, an excellent result”
How do AISM students compare to other Schools in the 2014 ISA Results

Last week the School sent parents the results of their children’s 2014 International School Assessment (ISA) diagnostic test results. In this newsletter, I would like to share with you the summary of how the AISM results compared to those of students in other similar demographic schools and how we compared to all schools whose students undertook the tests throughout the world in 2014. Please note that the data is mean (average) data of all students who participated in the testing at our school last year and Individuals results that were particularly high or particularly low impacted on the average results for the entire year level cohort.

From 2015, AISM will not only be collecting data about students, we will analyse it, compare it to previous years, consider intervention strategies and specifically use the data to adjust learning programs for students in a targeted way. We will be tracking cohorts of students and will be looking for evidence of adding value to the education of your children through this and other data that we collect. If you have any queries about your child’s individual ISA results please contact your Head of School.

2014 International School Assessment (ISA) Data - Years 3 to 10

- substantially above (>20 points higher)
- above (10-20 points higher)
- close to (<10 points difference)
- below (10-20 points higher)
- substantially below (>20 points higher)

We were pleased with many aspects of the summary data (the light and dark green sections) as it demonstrates that the teaching and learning programs we have in place are effective and that students’ skills are developing well through the rigours of the Australian Curriculum. For the categories noted in pale and dark pink, we have been reviewing the needs of individual students in those year levels as well as reviewing our teaching programs where a range of students have been identified as having results lower than that of similar schools around the world.

Note:
- The data for Year 3 in the table is about students who are now in Year 4 in 2015 and so on.
- Similar = average of schools with students from statistically similar socio-educational backgrounds
- All = average of all international schools participating in the ISA tests in 2014
Outdoor Education (Dr Priest)

Next week, our students in the Middle and Senior School head off to camp in a range of exciting local and overseas destinations. Thank you to all of the teachers who will be leaving their families for the week to ensure that our students can enjoy some new experiences in some different settings. Camp experiences are an important part of a balanced and holistic education and provide students with the opportunity to develop important life skills of resilience, independence, flexibility, cooperation, collaboration and an understanding of the needs of others through their service work and teamwork.

Not all students initially feel excited about attending camp and indeed some may try to influence parents to request an exemption from attending. While we understand there are always extenuating circumstances that result in a few students not attending camp each year, we would like to stress to families that these experiences are an integral part of our teaching program and there is an expectation that parents will support the School so that all students can gain valuable life lessons and grow in their maturity.

Please note, all bookings made and deposits paid for camps are made on the assumption that all students will attend. Refunds to parents of the few students not attending camp will only be made where the circumstances of non-attendance are exceptional and reasonable and to the extent the School can reclaim paid funds from the camp providers.
This Term a team of teachers across the School have been working on an action plan for implementation of Visible Learning in the School. The team has been working with teaching staff across Junior and Middle and Senior Schools to ensure that we are working towards achieving our common goals.

Our AIM is to become a fully accredited Visible Learning School by 2017. In order to do this there are a number of elements that we are embedding into our daily practicality.

The element we are currently focussing on is students being Visible Learners. In the MSS this meant that students are able to:

- Think effectively
- Know how to learn
- Understand their progress
- Use and give feedback effectively

Our first step is to ensure that students know what it means to be a Visible Learner and that they are familiar with the language that their teachers are using. Each of the four cornerstones for bring a Visible Learner will be explicitly taught to the students. Already your children will be able to talk about the learning intentions of their lessons and how they know that they have succeeded in achieving the learning intention. Our goal by the end of Term Two is to ensure that all students understand what it means to be a Visible Learner at AISM. The poster shown to the right will visually remind students of what they need to do in order to improve their learning outcomes.
Year 12 Examinations

Our HSC students will undergo their half-yearly examinations during camp week. Students will only need to attend for their examinations however a study area will be provided in the library area before, after and between exams.

A Week of Action in the MSS (Mrs Fuller)

This has been an exciting week for students both in and out of the classroom.

On Tuesday, as I walked around at lunch time I was surrounded by a number of student who were very eager to purchase from The Year 7 Bake Sale. This was a wonderful initiative of a group of students who wanted to raise some funds to assist the school that they will visit as part of the Service Learning component of their upcoming camp. The desire to assist others less fortunate than themselves is something that through our Service Learning curriculum we hope to instill in all of our students.

Competing with The Bake Sale on the other side of the breeze-way, I was enticed into a conversations by Year 9 Commerce students on consumer rights. A lovely young man was able to discuss with me at length what my consumer rights were and where I could access information to assist me to understand these rights further.

Following this I was invited to visit a Year 9 Geography class who had spent the week building a model of Australia which shows the main geographical features of the country. I asked two students, Kimberly Kam and Kaveen Parthiban to explain to me what they had learned. For two students who had not lived in Australia, they were able to clearly describe the geographical features of the country and the produce that was grown in each area.

The very next day, the Music Department had organised a percussion workshop with visiting Musician Andy Gleadhill which was an amazing and unique opportunity for these students. On this day our Year 6 students were visiting the chocolate factory on their Science excursion which supports what the students are learning in the current curriculum.

Our new multi-purpose classrooms are proving to be a success. They feature dividing walls that can also be used for students to write on. An excellent example of how collaborative thinking is taking place in our classrooms was evident during Mr Behazin’s History class where students were able to articulate their thoughts and learnings on the wall.

It is these types of days that really highlight the engagement of our students in their learning. The practical aspects of applying learned knowledge and the thinking skills that are involved in this process, sets us apart from other schools’ curriculums.
Camp Week

Next week all of our students will be attending camp at various locations. This is a very important component of our holistic focus on education at AISM. Not only are the camps embedded as part of our curriculum, they also provide the opportunity for students to work with others that they would normally not do so as part of the normal school day. It is also a great opportunity for teachers to work with the students on a different level and develop positive relationships with students that they may not necessarily teach.

It is a good time to remind students of the importance of participation and working with others. In understanding what it means to be a global citizen we have to appreciate that there are others less fortunate than ourselves. It is easy sometimes to put our hand in our pocket and give, but in doing so are we really giving of ourselves. The work that our students embark on throughout these camps affords them this opportunity. Your child will be faced with some challenges while on camp. It is important to support them in being a risk taker and in building resilience outside of their comfort zone. All activities are carefully monitored by our staff and the camp providers and your children are in good hands.

Whilst the students are away, our teachers have a duty of care to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child. All camps will contact the school to let them know of the safe arrival at our destinations as well as let parents know when we are departing to return home. An information sheet was sent home to all parents which include emergency contact details of staff on camp. Please only contact the staff in matters of emergencies as staff are engaged throughout the duration of the camp in activities and supervision of the students.

We need our students to be on their very best behaviour during this time. Please refer to the information on expected student behaviour in the camp information that you have been provided.
We had four universities visit us this week and speak to students in Year 10, 11 and 12.

On Wednesday morning, we had three leading Welsh Universities come and speak about the UK education system and about student life at Bangor, Swansea and Aberystwyth. Often, when students think about the UK they only consider studying in England, however Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland all have excellent universities and opportunities for students. Accommodation and living expenses in Wales is often lower than in places like London or Manchester and as the cities are smaller, university culture is a big part of the live of these communities. It was wonderful to have Wales showcased in this way. If you would like to know more about study options in Wales, please visit: www.wales.com.

Later in the day, we also had a visit from Ms Regina Milanes from Bond University in Queensland. Regina has visited us often in the past, and it was great to see her again. Students were interested to find out about the Trimester programme offered at Bond, which allows students to graduate faster than at other universities. Bond University is one of only two private Australian universities and offers degrees from Film and Television to Law and Business. Last year, two of our Year 12 graduating class enrolled at Bond. If you would like to know more, please visit: www.bond.edu.au.
Visible Learner Profile

There are four strands of Visible Learning

▪ The Visible Learner

▪ Know Thy Impact

▪ Inspired and Passionate Teachers

▪ Feedback

There is work underway in each of these four areas, and analysis of our school wide processes is also being undertaken so that we can achieve our goal of becoming an accredited Visible Learning School by 2017.

A Visible Learner is able to:

▪ Articulate what they are learning and why;
▪ Talk about how they are learning and the strategies they are using to learn;
▪ Articulate their next learning steps;
▪ Set mastery goals;
▪ Ask questions;
▪ See errors as opportunities and be comfortable saying that they don’t know and/or need help;
▪ Positively support the learning of their peers;
▪ Work out what to do when they don’t know what to do;
▪ Actively seek feedback; and
▪ Think about their own learning (metacognitive skills).
To reinforce these attributes in our students we have created a Visible Learner profile that will soon be displayed in each classroom and throughout the Junior School.

I AM A VISIBLE LEARNER

I THINK about my learning and how I can improve.

I LISTEN to others’ ideas about learning.

I LOOK for feedback about my learning so I know what to practise.

I ASK questions about my learning and join in learning discussions.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Congratulations to the Junior School SRC, who were presented with their badges at the last assembly. Throughout the year these students will work with their Middle and Senior School colleagues to raise money for charity and to provide valuable student feedback about school initiatives.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Tania Thong from Year 5 who won her category at the Meta Sprint Series in Singapore last weekend, and Eliza Tan who was runner-up in her category. The event included a 750m run followed by a 5km bike ride and another 750m.
Grade of The Week - Year 4

**Monkeyst**
Smart playful
Searching Scratching Climbing
They love to eat bananas

*Amelia Lee, 4G*

**Art**
Simple, fun
test creativity
changes, my expressions

*Ishwarya Krishna, 4W*

![Artwork by Ishwarya Krishna](image1)

**Mittens**
There was once a cat named Mitten
She was a very cute kitten
She was scared of puppies
But she loved to eat Guppies

*Sara Yap and Isabella Durkin, 4M*

![Artwork by Sara Yap and Isabella Durkin](image2)

**Shotaro - Kanda, 4G**

![Artwork by Shotaro Kanda](image3)

**Manami Kuno, 4W**

![Artwork by Manami Kuno](image4)

**Keith Teh, 4M**

![Artwork by Keith Teh](image5)
Kerry Brown, AISM’s Head of Early Learning Centre, and children’s book author, publishes yet another celebrated book for children, "Lest We Forget". The book captures powerful, inspirational messages of heartfelt meaning and importance of Australia’s national day of remembrance, ANZAC, illustrated through the eyes of a young boy and his granddad. 'ANZAC' which stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. is remembered every 25 April, where Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula. This year especially stands out as it marks the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC.

Here’s an inside look at what Kerry’s book is about. A young boy and his granddad on one particular day, discuss the idea that there are two types of days; ones to remember and ones to forget. They both share experiences in their lives that have sparked both happiness and sadness. The young grandson goes on to describe what his important days are, like his first day of school, playing soccer with his team, the day his little sister was born. He then reveals the days that upset him. In a clever and original approach, Kerry Brown uses the illustrations to show a parallel story of the granddad’s experience at war; wearing his soldiers’ uniform, being with his fellow diggers in the trenches, looking at a photograph of a baby he’s never met. These were also dark days for the granddad; ones he would like to forget.

Asked why she wrote about the ANZAC diggers, Kerry replied "I wrote this story to encourage open conversation between children and adults. I truly hope it will help bridge the ages and create a level of understanding and empathy from generation to generation."

Kerry Brown is a well-known Australian children’s author and is currently Head Teacher of the Early Learning Centre at our school. She has published numerous children’s picture books and is easily the most popular and engaging storyteller with our young students at AISM.

Kerry Brown tells a story from her new book “Lest We Forget” to the Junior School students

LEST WE FORGET

Written by Kerry Brown
Illustrated by Ismail Kuscher & Benjamin Perrin
ANZAC has significance for every generation. Here are some poems written by students from our school.

The Poppy Field

I walked through the poppy field,
There were bursts of red by my side,
I walked around with pride,
I thought of all the soldiers that fought
For Australia; really, I almost cried,
Lest we forget the soldiers that died.

By Isabelle Young, 5W

To protect Australia from despair,
Soldiers must be sent far and wide,
Families must be ready to declare,
All men must set sail on the tide.

United we stand,
For peace is our intention,
Standing on the sand,
Preparing for our mission.

Shells litter on the beach,
Gunshots pounding in my ear.
Together we must breach
The obstacles of fear.

Blood surrounds the view,
Bodies limp and stale,
The boats are our cue,
To leave this hellbound jail.

Now every April on the 25th,
We remember the soldiers with pride,
For what they did is not a myth,
But a legend or valour of those who died.

By Kimberley Kam, 9G

Army troops storm the shore,
Never to be safe again,
Zipping bullets pierce the skin.
Again and again, the pile growing,
Calling from the fallen, to their families, their God.

By Veronica Purcell, 8M

Thousands of people suffer,
Hoping that they would no longer,
A death brings a tear to the eye,
Families wave goodbye.

Gunshots ringing in the ear,
People depart in fear.
When will this war end,
For hearts need to mend.

Memories are left behind.
Frightening thoughts enter the mind.
People are no longer filled with smiles,
For they have to leave and walk miles.

By Ellis Idris, 9G

He who is brave.
Everyone cheers for him.
Ring in peace.
O who will save the day.

By Hanif Mohd Faisal, 8M

And every year more old men disappear,
Never forgetting the memories they hold most dear.
All of them sacrificed their lives,
Whilst knowing the price they must pay.

By Beatrice Su, 8M

These poems will be published in the MANZA April edition.
AISM has been providing e-Learning platforms for all students. The benefit of this type of learning is that it is self-directed allowing students to choose content and tools appropriate to their differing interests, needs and skill levels.

This accommodates multiple learning styles using a variety of delivery methods geared to different learners which supports our school philosophy of extending all learners. Our students have access to various e-learning sites based on their year group. The list of resources is extensive and changing continuously. Below are some examples of products the school subscribes too to support your child's learning.

I am listing some of the these products available to the Junior School and will highlight more products for the Middle & Senior School in upcoming communications. Some products require a whole school log in. Please refer to the e-Bulletin in studywiz which will be available from the 23 March 2015 for these otherwise your children will have personal log ins.

Junior School

**Wacky but True**
http://www.wackymag.com
In Wacky.. but true you read about all the unusual things that happen in this world.

**Britannica**
http://www.britannica.com/
The Encyclopædia Britannica is a general knowledge English-language encyclopaedia.

**Tumblebooks**
http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/
TumbleBookLibrary is an online collection of TumbleBooks - animated, talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading in a format they'll love.

**Brain POP At Home**
(24 hours remote access for Junior Brian Pop & Brain Pop)
http://www.brainpopjr.com/
http://www.brainpop.com/

**Mathletics**
Mathletics is fun, supportive and effective for students of all ages and abilities and is accessed at home and in the class

**Skwirk**
http://www.skwirk.com.au
Skwirk covers the core subjects studied in Australian primary and secondary schools including Maths, Science, Technology, English, History, Geography, Commerce, SOSE and HSIE.

**Reading Eggs** Years Foundation -2

**Studyladder** is an online english literacy & mathematics learning tool. Kids activity games
https://www.studyladder.com/

Any questions please email kylie at the following address learning@aism.edu.my

Kylie Booker, Head of Curriculum and Innovation
Message from Performing Arts

World Music Workshops
Malcolm McCormick, Head of Arts

On March 18th AISIM was fortunate to have Andy Gleadhill join us for a day to work with our students in Year 4, Year 8 and Year 12 in World Music. Andy who hails from the UK, is well known in the Music Education world as a performer, teacher, lecturer and composer in World Music and Percussion.

For Year 4, Andy presented a taste of worked music from Latin America and also Malaysia. Year 8 covered Caribbean and African percussion and drumming techniques. For year 12, Andy worked with students in their HSC pieces incorporating traditional music into their pieces for performance. It was an exciting and fun-filled day which also relates to the World Music units completed in the curriculum this year.

Andy will come back on Saturday, 21 March to run a full day workshop for teachers from AISIM and the region. Expect to hear some exciting World sounds coming from our students at concerts inspired by Andy's visit!

For more photos click here: World Music Workshops
British author and performer, Stan Cullimore visited AISM on March 6th.

The students from Year 3 to Year 7 were thoroughly entertained by him. Highlights included Stan playing the ukulele and singing songs about our teachers. His sessions were both very informative and interactive. It was a real pleasure to host Stan in our library.

For more photos click here: [Author and performer, Stan Cullimore]

These are some of the students comments:
Stan Cullimore was:

- Incredible
- Awesome
- Very funny
- Very energetic
- Fantastic
- Wicked
- Imaginative
- Talented
- Skilled
- Kind

Stan also held a Poetry Workshop with some Year 5 students.

**Sacha 5A**
Godzilla in the villa
Lemur in the river
Termite in the vegemite
Rooster in a cave filled with stalagmites.

**Megan 5G**
A caterpillar in the shower
A moose trapped in my room
Bumblebees in my closet
And a koala climbing a broom.

**Book Donations**
Megan Chen, 6M has given the library some of the popular Thea Stilton books.
The Dengue Health Talk held last Thursday was a great success. There was a good turnout from parents all keen to hear the talk by Dr. Thavinder, Medical Officer from Ara Damansara Hospital.

The talk focused on the Dengue mosquito, causes, symptoms and how to better safeguard your home and surroundings. The parents asked lots of questions which Dr Thavinder happily answered. Sime Darby Health Centre nurses offered their services after the talk. They gave a Health Check to all the parents who attended the talk. Freebies were given to all parents after the Health Check too.